



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

August 13, 2013

Mr. Michael Morisy
Via MuckRock
Dept MR 3374
P.O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 0225-5819

RE: ICE FOIA Case Number 2013FOIA28200

Dear Mr. Morisy:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated March 12, 2013, which was received by ICE on August 1, 2013. You have requested “copies of contracts with Booz Allen Hamilton over the past 5 years” and “any final reports generated and delivered by Booz Allen Hamilton to the agency over the past 5 years”.

After review of your request, I have determined that your request seeks a voluminous quantity of documents created by hundreds of ICE employees and contractors during an 5 year period. A search for ALL records that would be responsive to your request would yield tens-of-thousands, if not hundreds-of-thousands, of potentially responsive documents.

The FOIA does not require agencies to search for the proverbial needle in a haystack, nor does it contemplate that requestors will ask for the entire haystack. “[I]t is the requester’s responsibility to frame requests with sufficient particularity to ensure that searches are not unreasonably burdensome, and to enable the searching agency to determine precisely what records are being requested”.¹

Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency. For this reason §5.3(b) of the DHS regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, require that you describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each records sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipients, and subject matter of the records, if known, or the DHS component or office you believe created and/or controls the record. The FOIA does not require an agency to conduct research projects, create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records.

Please resubmit your request containing a reasonable description of the specific records you are seeking. Upon receipt of a perfected request, you will be advised as to the status of your request.

If we do not receive an amended request from you within 15 business days from the date of this

¹ See *Assassination Archives*, 720 F. Supp. at 219. The reasonable description obligation relates to the subject matter of a search as well as to its location. *Bailey*, 2010 WL 924251, at *4.

letter, we will assume you are no longer interested in this FOIA request and will consider your request withdrawn. Please be advised that this action is not a denial of your request and will not preclude you from filing other requests in the future.

Please be advised that information federal procurements are publicly available from the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) at <https://www.fpds.gov>. For your convenience, I have enclosed a list of ICE contracts with Booz Allen Hamilton that was obtained from FPDS. This list contains the date of each procurement action, the amount, the name of the vendor, and the contract number. Additional information for each procurement action can be retrieved by searching the contract number within FPDS.

If you need to contact our office about this matter, please refer to FOIA case number **2013FOIA28200**. This office can be reached at (866) 633-1182.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pavlik-Keenan', followed by a small, stylized mark that looks like 'FR'.

Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan
FOIA Officer

Enclosures: Your March 12, 2013 FOIA Request
FPDS List, 32 pages

McDonald, Ryan J

From: Pavlik-Keenan, Catrina M on behalf of ICE-FOIA
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2013 11:59 AM
To: McDonald, Ryan J
Subject: FW: Follow up to Freedom of Information Request: Booz Allen Hamilton Contracts (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

-----Original Message-----

From: 3374-55801836@requests.muckrock.com [<mailto:3374-55801836@requests.muckrock.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2013 7:07 AM
To: ICE-FOIA@dhs.gov
Subject: Follow up to Freedom of Information Request: Booz Allen Hamilton Contracts (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

July 14, 2013
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Office
800 North Capitol Street, NW, Room 585
Washington, DC 20536-5009

This is a follow up to a previous request:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to follow up on the following Freedom of Information request, copied below, and originally submitted on March 12, 2013. Please let me know when I can expect to receive a response, or if further clarification is needed.

Thank you for your help.

On June 14, 2013:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to follow up on the following Freedom of Information request, copied below, and originally submitted on March 12, 2013. Please let me know when I can expect to receive a response, or if further clarification is needed.

Thank you for your help.

On May 15, 2013:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to follow up on the following Freedom of Information request, copied below, and originally submitted on March 12, 2013. Please let me know when I can expect to receive a response, or if further clarification is needed.

Thank you for your help.

On April 11, 2013:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to follow up on the following Freedom of Information request, copied below, and originally submitted on March 12, 2013. Please let me know when I can expect to receive a response, or if further clarification is needed.

Thank you for your help.

On March 12, 2013:

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I hereby request the following records:

Copies of contracts with Booz Allen Hamilton over the past 5 years.

Any final reports generated and delivered by Booz Allen Hamilton to the agency over the past 5 years

I also request that, if appropriate, fees be waived as I believe this request is in the public interest. The requested documents will be made available to the general public free of charge as part of the public information service at MuckRock.com, processed by a representative of the news media/press and is made in the process of news gathering and not for commercial usage.

In the event that fees cannot be waived, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Michael Morisy

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 3374-55801836@requests.muckrock.com

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News

DEPT MR 3374

PO Box 55819

Boston, MA 02205-5819

PLEASE NOTE the new address as well as the fact that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than MuckRock News) requests might be returned by the USPS as undeliverable.